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**BOROUGH
OF
MALMESBURY
1954.**



BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING

31st. DECEMBER, 1954.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY ETC.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne & Chippenham and the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury.

(b) SANITARY INSPECTOR.

E.H. Holroyd, Cert. R.S.I.,

Meat and Food Inspector's Cert.

who combines the duties with that of Borough Surveyor.

(c) PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES.

The General Purposes Committee of the Council deals with all matters pertaining to Public Health.

TO: - The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my
Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1954.

The health of the community has
been satisfactory during the year. There was little
infectious disease and no cases of Infantile Paralysis
or food poisoning were notified.

Although the Birth Rate was
lower and the Death Rate higher than that of England and
Wales, it should be appreciated that in small populations
rates per 1000 do not give an altogether correct impression.

The Slaughterhouse Act, 1954 came
into operation on the 5th. July following the decontrol of
meat and livestock. This occasioned several meetings with
local traders and inspections of premises previously used
as Slaughterhouses. Details will be found in the Report of
the Sanitary Inspector.

The attention of the Council is
directed to new legislation which became operative during
1954 and which greatly added to the duties of the Surveyor
and Sanitary Inspector.

The care and housing of the aged will
constitute an increasing responsibility. It should be made
clear that the expectation of life has not been greatly
increased for males over 65 years of age, but that more of
the population are now attaining the age of 65 than was formally
the case. Further detail on this important subject is given
in the report.

I am very grateful to Mr. Holroyd
and the staff of the Council for their help during the year
and assistance in compiling this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD.



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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	202
Population	2,500
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1954 according to the Rate Book)	842
Rateable Value	£14,116
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£57

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	15	7	22
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total Live Births	15	8	23

Comparative rate for England & Wales 15.2 per
1000 of the
population.

STILL BIRTHS

No Still births were recorded during the year.

DEATHS

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
15	21	36

Death Rate for the Borough. 15.0 per 1000 of the population.

Comparative Rate for England & Wales 11.3 per 1000 of the population.

Although the Death Rate for the year is higher than for 1953 when it was 9.5 per 1000 of the population, the total deaths recorded for 1954 is too small to permit of a reliable comparative rate

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Other	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Ac ¹ Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic dis.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	-	1	1
" " lung, bronchus	1	1	2
" " breast	-	1	1
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3	6
Leukaemia, aloukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	3	4
Coronary disease angina	3	1	4
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	-	5	5
Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	-	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory sys.	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis enteritis & diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined dis.	3	-	3
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:-	15	21	36

INFANT MORTALITY.

It is very gratifying to report that no deaths occurred during 1954 of infants under the age of one year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1954 as compared with 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

<u>DISEASE</u>	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	1	1	--	--	14	13	4	4	1	1	--	--
Whooping Cough	1	1	9	9	--	--	13	13	--	--	27	27
Diphtheria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--
Measles	5	5	34	34	13	13	59	59	10	10	--	--
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	--	--
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	--	--
Dysentery	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Puerperal Pyrexia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Smallpox	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Paratyphoid Fever	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Typhoid	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Food Poisoning	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Erysipelas	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pneumonia	4	4	--	--	2	2	--	--	--	--	4	4
TOTALS:-	11	11	44	44	29	28	76	76	15	15	32	31

"a" = Numbers originally notified.

"b" = Numbers after correction.

Apart from a small outbreak of whooping cough which occurred during the final quarter of the year, little other infectious disease was notified.

It is gratifying to note that no cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified during the year and that the one case of Diphtheria shown above was subsequently not confirmed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE - DISTRIBUTION OF CASES ACCORDING TO AGE
NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED DURING 1954 - CORRECTED FIGURES.

<u>DISEASE</u>	Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	16	8	1	-	-	27
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	2	-	-	1	1	4
TOTALS:-	2	18	8	1	1	1	31

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year show a decrease as compared with 1953.

NEW CASES DURING

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	1	-	1
1949	-	-	-
1950	1	-	1
1951	7	-	7
1952	1	-	1
1953	9	1	10
1954	2	1	3

In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous individuals either move into the Borough, or move out. Remaining on the Register of Tuberculous Persons at the end of 1954 were the following cases:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	13	15	28
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	1
Total:-	14	15	29

The National Assistance Act, 1948

Sec. 47 Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention

Whilst it was not found necessary to take statutory action, arrangements were made for the removal of one aged person who agreed to enter hospital as a voluntary patient.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following children received primary immunisations during 1954:-

<u>Under 1 yr.</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
13	28	7	48

Total immunised child population as at 31.12.54

<u>Ages 0-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
146	447	593

VACCINATION

The following children were vaccinated during 1954:-

<u>Under 1 yr</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>Ages 15 or over</u>
22	4	2	1
<u>TOTAL:- 29</u>			

LEGISLATION

During 1954 the following were issued by the various Ministries of the Central Government. The most important were the Slaughterhouse Act, 1954 and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular concerning Slum Clearance.

The Puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations, 1954 - These regulations made by the Minister of Health came into operation on the 1st. March, 1954 and amend the Puerperal Pyrexia Regns. 1951 by prescribing a new form of certificate for the notification by a medical practitioner of cases of puerperal pyrexia. The new form requires the cause of the disease, if known, to be stated.

Ministry of Health Circular 8/54 - (Prevention of Tuberculosis) - This circular directed the issue of a memorandum to the Medical Officer of Health and Chest Physicians reviewing the value of existing measures to bring tuberculosis under control.

Slaughterhouse Act, 1954 - This Act came into force on the 5th. July, 1954. Local Authorities are now responsible for the time being for ensuring that adequate slaughtering facilities are available and for the grant of and renewal of licences in respect thereof etc.

LEGISLATION (CONTINUED)

Food & Drugs Amendment Act, 1954 -	Apart from Sec. 28 which makes certain provisions governing the restricting of private slaughterhouses, the remainder of the Act will not come into force until the early part of 1955.
The Slaughter of Animals(Prevention of Cruelty)(No.2) Regulations,1954.	These regulations came into force on the 1st, December, 1954 and are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards.
Ministry of Food Circular MF 4/54	Concerns slaughtering facilities to be made by Local Authorities on the decontrol of meat and livestock.
Ministry of Food Circular MF 5/54	Concerns the licensing and provision of Slaughter-houses.
Ministry of Food Circular MF 10/54	Public Health (Meat) Regns. 1924-1952-1954 Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.
Housing Repairs & Rents Act,1954.	This Act came into force on the 30th, August, Inter alia the Council is required to submit to the Minister of Housing & Local Government within the next 12 months its proposals for dealing with houses unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition.
Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular 75/54	Slum Clearance Procedure.
Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circu ar 8/54	Rivers(Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1954.

THE AGEING POPULATION.

There is no satisfactory definition of old age. The reduction of mental and physical capacity associated with old age begins much earlier than the artificial ages of retirement.

It has been estimated that one in seven of the population are of pensionable age, and a Census in 1951 showed that one house in fifteen consists of one person aged 60 years or more. This increase in the number of aged in our midst is due to economic and social progress and great advances in the field of Public Health and curative medicine.

Although there has been some increase in the expectation of life, this is not the principle cause of the increase; more people are now reaching old age, an infrequent event in the past.

There is no doubt that the care of the aged constitutes a social and economic problem which will make increasing demands on the younger and producing members of the community in the future. It is desirable to encourage and prolong the mental and physical activities of the elderly, and some form of productive employment, however simple, is of great assistance to this end. It is of little value to the individual if having attained a healthy old age, he finds himself unwanted, neglected and divorced from the community.

The parents of young families are frequently unable to include their parents in the family unit owing to housing difficulties. My own experience is that young couples are better living alone. I frequently hear of the domestic problems which arise when attempts are made to live with the respective father or mother-in-law. It is preferable that the elderly should live in their own homes and every attempt should be made to further this objective. However attractive Welfare Accommodation may be, or however comfortable and efficient our hospital service, in my opinion, they do not replace the very natural desire of all of us to remain under our own roof.

During 1954 it was not found necessary to take action under the National Assistance Act, 1948 for the removal of a person to a suitable hospital or Institution.

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I am grateful to Mr. Holroyd for the following information concerning Water Supplies, Drainage and Sewerage, and statistics as required by the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Borough obtains water supplies from two sources, one, a borehole 153 feet deep at Park Road, and the other, a shallow well, fed by three springs, at Holloway. The water is pumped by electrically driven centrifugal pumps to a water tower of 55,000 gallons capacity, whence it reaches the consumers by gravity. A bulk supply is given to the Malmesbury Rural District Council.

The average daily quantity of water pumped for use in the Borough during 1954 was 107,000 gallons, giving 42 gallons per day per head of population estimated at 2,550. In addition, an average of 37,000 gallons per day was supplied to the Malmesbury Rural District Council. The two sources have given a satisfactory supply, as regards both quantity and quality.

The only form of treatment the water receives is chlorination by the drip feed method, and this is regularly carried out at both sources of supply. Frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations of the water are made.

By the end of the year the Council's scheme for the improvement of the water supply was virtually completed. All the pumping machinery has been installed and tested, and the structure of the new water tower has been completed. Tests on the tower showed that there were slight leaks through the asphalt lining of the tanks, and these have yet to be remedied.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The whole of the Borough is served by an obsolete system of sewers, which discharge, through small catchpits, into the river. There are no works for the treatment and disposal of the sewage, and pollution of the River Avon occurs.

As reported last year all the details have been completed in connection with the Council's new Sewerage Scheme to provide a new sewage disposal works and trunk sewers, and the Ministry have now suggested the 1st. April, 1956 as a starting date for the Scheme.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

<u>PREMISES</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Number of Inspns.</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
1. Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	16	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	13	14	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-Workers premises)	4	6	-	-
TOTAL:-	33	34	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred To HM Insp.</u>	<u>By HM Insp. stns.</u>	<u>Pros-</u>
Want of cleanliness	8	7	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7)</u>					
{a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
{b) Unsuitable or Defective.	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	12	11	-	-	-

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST. DECEMBER, 1954.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Malmesbury.

Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present to you my eighth Annual Report, covering the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1954.

The tables and statistics are set out as required by the Ministry of Health Circular 42/51.

Once more I must express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H. HOLROYD.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat

The end of June saw the finish of the Government control of slaughtering, and a licence was granted for one slaughterhouse to operate in the Borough. This slaughterhouse had been in use up to January, 1940, and it was enlarged and modern machinery installed. Killing commenced on the 1st. July, and the slaughterhouse caters, not only for the Borough, but also for a number of other towns. It has been possible to maintain one hundred per cent ^{Inspection} of all animals killed, but only at the expense of other duties, and by working outside of normal working hours. The killing of pigs continues at the Bacon Factory.

The following table gives details of animals killed and inspected, together with numbers of animals affected by disease, and includes pigs killed at the Bacon Factory.

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	528	123	124	1,932	6,769
Number inspected	528	123	124	1,932	6,769
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned		1	1	1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	65	43		89	55
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	12.3%	35%		4.6%	0.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned		3			10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	32			151
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.3%	26%			2.4%

Total weight of meat and offal condemned: 5 tons 0 cwts. 3 qrs. 24 lbs.

Food Premises.

The numbers of food premises in the Borough, by type of business, are given below:

Grocers	7
Greengrocers	3
Butchers	5
Small General Shops	13
Sweetshops	5
Wet fish shops	2
Fried fish shops	2
Cake shops	4
Restaurants	5
Hotels serving meals to non-residents	5

Inspections were made of most of the premises during the year, and the standard of cleanliness, as regards both the premises and the handling of food, is satisfactory.

The five butchers' shops are all registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture and sale of sausages, and all premises are in a satisfactory condition. In addition there are two other premises registered under Section 14 for the preparation and sale of chitterlings and faggots.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Cont'd.)

Food Premises. (Cont'd.)

There are 14 shops selling ice cream, all of which are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and from all of which pre-wrapped ice cream, stored at a regular temperature by refrigeration, is sold.

Milk.

There is one milk producer and three milk retailers in the Borough. Two of the dairies are in the Borough, whilst the other is in the adjoining Rural District. The two local retailers are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 for the sale of both Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised milk. There are no pasteurisation plants, and no producers of Tuberculin Tested milk in the Borough.

Bakehouses.

There are no bakehouses in the Borough, and all the bread distributed is baked outside the Borough.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, and surrender notes were issued accordingly. The amount surrendered shows a sharp drop compared with previous years. Diseased meat and offal from the slaughterhouse is stained and disposed of for processing or for consumption at kennels; diseased meat and offal from the Bacon Factory is burnt in the factory boiler, and other condemned foodstuffs are collected and buried at the refuse tip.

<u>Foodstuff</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Tinned meat	18 lbs
" fruit	4 "
Fish	98 "
Bacon	3 "
Jam	2 "

Total weight surrendered: 1 cwt. 0 qrs. 7 lbs.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse is collected twice weekly and tipped at a site about half a mile from the town. Periodic treatment for rats and other pests is carried out. This tip is rapidly filling, and a search must soon be made for another suitable site.

Salvaged paper and cardboard are collected with the refuse, and a special collection is made once monthly from business premises. During the year a total of 24 tons 12 cwts. was collected, realising £86. 2. 0.

SHOPS UNDER THE SHOPS ACTS.

The conditions of employees in shops under the provisions of the Shops Acts are generally satisfactory, and no serious breaches of the Acts were found.

HOUSING

Twenty-four traditional houses and 20 non-traditional houses on the Corn Gastons site were completed and occupied during the year, and work was commenced on the erection of a further fourteen non-traditional houses on the same site. Work was also commenced on the erection of five bungalows to complete the Hobbes' Close site. When the Council's present housing programme is completed all available sites will have been filled, and it will be necessary to acquire further sites before any more houses can be built.

At the end of the year there were 94 applicants on the waiting list for houses.

No house-to-house inspections under the Housing Acts were made during the year, and the housing statistics recorded in the following table are the results of action taken under the Public Health Act.

Housing Statistics for 1954.

1. Unfit dwelling houses - Inspection

(1)(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	15
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	29
(2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (Exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	15

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers

Number of dwelling houses demolished in consequence of action by the Local Authority

3. Action under Statutory powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
B. Proceedings under the Public Health Act	Nil

HOUSING (Cont'd.)Housing Statistics for 1954 (Cont'd.)4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	8
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	10
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	44
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
(c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	7
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	41
(d) Particulars of any case in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.Visits and Inspections made during 1954

Investigation of complaints.....	25
Food premises.....	29
Fish shops.....	8
Ice cream premises.....	15
Butchers' shops.....	10
Restaurants.....	6
Dairies and Milkshops.....	5
Shops under the Shops Acts.....	12
Infectious disease enquiries.....	6
Factories.....	36
Slaughterhouse.....	156
Bacon Factory.....	98
Applicants for Council houses.....	62
New drainage work.....	15
Rat infestations.....	9
Moveable dwellings.....	5
Revisits.....	21
	<u>518</u>

Statement of Nuisances recorded and abated during 1954

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. during year</u>	<u>No. abated</u>	<u>No. outstanding</u>
Choked drains	17	17	-
Defective drains	6	6	-
" water closets	4	4	-
" roofs	6	5	1
" gutters & rainwater pipes	3	1	2
" ceilings	1	1	-
" walls	3	2	1
" floors	1	1	-
" windows	4	2	2
Dirty rooms	7	7	-
Insanitary accumulations	1	1	-
Nuisance from animals	1	1	-
Miscellaneous	6	4	2
	<u>60</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>8</u>



